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Economic and Social Council

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Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies
April 2003

Relationship Agreement with the United Nations and World Tourism Organization

Communication received from the World Tourism Organization

Note by the Secretary-General

The present note contains the text of a communication received from the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the Chairman of the WTO Committee on Negotiations for the Conversion of the Organization into a Specialized Agency of the United Nations to the Chairman of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies (see annex).

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Annex

We are pleased to inform you that the draft Agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization, as submitted by the Economic and Social Council Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies,[a] was transmitted today to the WTO Committee on Negotiations for the Conversion of the Organization into a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, under the chairmanship of Jordan. It was approved as it stands, without any changes.

The Committee has recommended that the WTO Executive Council, which meets in the first week of June, approve the text and transmit it to the next session of the WTO General Assembly, to be held in October this year.

The report adopted by the WTO Committee together with the composition of this group is attached hereto (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Francesco **Frangialli**
Secretary-General
World Tourism Organization

(*Signed*) Abdullah Abdul Hamid **Seraj**
Ambassador of Jordan to Spain
Chairman of the WTO Committee on Negotiations
for the Conversion of the Organization into
a Specialized Agency of the United Nations

[a] See E/2003/60.

Enclosure

[Original: English/French/Spanish]

Report of the WTO Committee on Negotiations for the Conversion of the Organization into a Specialized Agency of the United Nations

The WTO Committee on Negotiations for the Conversion of the Organization into a Specialized Agency of the United Nations, meeting at the Madrid Headquarters on 29 April 2003, under the chairmanship of Jordan, represented by H.E. Mr. Abdullah Abdul Hamid Seraj, Ambassador of Jordan to Spain, and with the participation of H.E. Mr. Mikhail Kamynin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation, the country elected to the chairmanship of the Executive Council, invited to the meeting,

Congratulates the Chairman of ECOSOC's Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Organizations, Mr. Marco Balarezo (Peru), and the members of the Committee on the meticulous and thorough work they have carried out;

Thanks the ECOSOC Secretariat and the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations for their constant support to the work of the Committee;

Considers that the text of the draft Agreement on the relations between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization, which was submitted to it by ECOSOC's Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Organizations, based on the preparatory work by the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations is, on the whole, very satisfactory;

Underlines the following points of the text of the draft of the above-mentioned Agreement, which it considers very positive:

1. The reference, in its preamble, to Resolution 2529(XXIV) of 5 December 1969 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which led to the creation of the WTO as the successor of the IUOTO,

2. The fact that it affirms the intergovernmental character of the WTO, which, along with the growing importance taken on by tourism in international life, justifies its conversion into a specialized agency of the United Nations,

3. The reference, in Article 2, to tourism's role in sustainable development and in poverty eradication, which are among the objectives of the Millennium Declaration and which were underlined in 2002 by the Johannesburg Summit,

4. The recognition, in Articles 2 and 12 of the text, of the WTO's important coordinating function in the sector entrusted to it, and also of the essential role belonging to ECOSOC, due to the multidimensional nature of tourism, to ensure such coordination among the institutions and bodies of the United Nations System, in a general and permanent manner,

5. The fact that the WTO will be called upon to participate in the United Nation's highest administrative bodies, and in particular, in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination,

6. The need, recalled in Article 12, for United Nations resident coordinators to ensure the representation of the WTO and to promote its efforts, given that the Organization does not currently have field representation, while having the status of executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme by virtue of the agreement signed with the latter in 1976,

7. The recognition, in Article 13, of the WTO's mission in the field of tourism statistics, and on this basis, the reference made to the integration of tourism statistics in the macroeconomic tools, such as the tourism satellite account, developed on the basis of the methodology adopted by the United Nations, thanks to close collaboration between the WTO and the United Nations Statistical Commission,

8. The recognition, for the first time in an agreement of this kind, of the possibility for each organization to use different currencies to formulate their budgets, and

9. The respect, recalled in Article 16, of the conditions of employment of the WTO's staff, in accordance with the rules, regulations and practices applicable in the matter to the personnel of the United Nations system.

For the above reasons:

Gives its full approval to the text of the draft Agreement, as prepared by the ECOSOC Committee on Negotiations, without making any changes to it; and

Recommends that the Executive Council approve it in the same way in order to ensure that both the General Assembly of the United Nations and that of the WTO can approve it in the course of their respective forthcoming sessions.

Composition of the WTO Committee on Negotiations

Chairman	Jordan
Members	Angola Argentina Bangladesh Côte d'Ivoire Ecuador Egypt France Philippines Spain Switzerland
Observer	Russian Federation

Madrid, 29 April 2003

COMITÉ DE NEGOCIACIONES DE LA OMT PARA LA TRANSFORMACIÓN DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN EN ORGANISMO ESPECIALIZADO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

COMITÉ DE NEGOCIATIONS DE L'OMT POUR LA TRANSFORMATION DE L'ORGANISATION EN INSTITUTION SPÉCIALISÉE DES NATIONS UNIES

WTO COMMITTEE ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE ORGANIZATION INTO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Madrid (España / Espagne / Spain), 29 de abril / avril / April 2003

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
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PRESIDENTE / PRÉSIDENT / CHAIRMAN

JORDANIA / JORDANIE / JORDAN	H.E. Mr. Abdullah Abdul Hamid SERAJ Ambassador of Jordan to Spain Permanent Representative of Jordan to WTO

MEMBERS / MEMBRES / MIEMBROS

ANGOLA / ANGOLA / ANGOLA	Ilmo. Sr. André Domingos NETO Consejero Embajada de Angola en España
ARGENTINA / ARGENTINE / ARGENTINA	Sra. María Renée DÍAZ DE BRITO Consejera Embajada de Argentina en España

BANGLADESH / BANGLADESH / BANGLADESH	H.E. Mr. Shahed AKHTAR Ambassador of Bangladesh to Spain Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to WTO
CÔTE D'IVOIRE / CÔTE D'IVOIRE / CÔTE D'IVOIRE	M. Évariste YAPI KOFFI Chargé d'affaires de la Côte d'Ivoire en Espagne
ECUADOR / ÉQUATEUR / ECUADOR	Excmo. Sr. Francisco CARRIÓN MENA Embajador del Ecuador en España Sr. José María BORJA Consejero Embajada del Ecuador en España
EGIPTO / ÉGYPTE / EGYPT	Mr. Osama ABDEL KHALEK First Secretary Embassy of Egypt in Spain
ESPAÑA / ESPAGNE / SPAIN	Ilmo. Sr. D. Antonio NIETO Subdirector General de Cooperación y Coordinación Turística Secretaría General de Turismo Sra. Da. Reyes FEITO Jefe del Área de Cooperación Internacional Secretaría General de Turismo Sra. Da. Cristina FRAILE Jefa Adjunta de la Asesoría Jurídica Internacional Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores Sr. D. Álvaro LOZANO Jefe de Servicio de Organismos Internacionales Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
FILIPINAS / PHILIPPINES / PHILIPPINES	H.E. Mr. Joseph D. BERNARDO Y MEDINA Ambassador of the Philippines to Spain Permanent Representative of the Philippines to WTO Ms. Perla PRIMICIAS Tourism Marketing Representative Embassy of the Philippines in Spain

FRANCIA / FRANCE / FRANCE	Mme Anne VIDAL DE LA BLACHE Deuxième Conseiller Ambassade de France en Espagne Représentant permanent de la France auprès de l'OMT
	M. Hugo CONIEZ École nationale d'administration
SUIZA / SUISSE / SWITZERLAND	M. Marcel STUTZ Ministre Conseiller Ambassade de Suisse en Espagne

OBSERVADOR / OBSERVATEUR / OBSERVER

FEDERACIÓN DE RUSIA / FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE / RUSSIAN FEDERATION	H.E. Mr. Mikhail L. KAMYNIN Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Spain and Andorra Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to WTO
	Mr. Oleg NEMODRUG Third Secretary Embassy of the Russian Federation in Spain